

APRIL 2023

# OISS Newsletter



## In This Issue:

Taxes	pg. 2
Spring Drop-Ins	pg. 2
OPT Deadline	pg. 2
Grad Slam Winners	pg. 2
OISS Staffing	pg. 3
Electronic DS-2019s	pg. 3
OISS Events	pg. 4
OISS Recommends	pg. 4

## Dear International Gauchos,

Happy first day of Spring quarter! For many students, today marks the first day of their last quarter at UCSB before graduating. Congratulations to everyone who is completing their degrees!

International students are among the most innovative, hard-working, and insightful members of our campus community. Even after students leave UCSB, a lasting impression remains in the work they've done, contributions they've made, and everything they've taught us. We hope our graduating students enjoyed their time as Global Gauchos and we can't wait to see what great things they do next.

In community,

The Office of International Students and Scholars

# Tax Day is Almost Here!

Visit our [Tax page](#) for more information, in addition to the following resources:

- [Non-resident tax guide](#)
- [Everything you need to know about nonresident tax video](#)
- [Sprintax's YouTube Channel](#)
- [Sprintax's website](#)

## Grad Slam Pre-Lim Round Winners

Shoutout to all the international students who won or placed in Grad Slam Prelims!

- Humanities: Cedar Brown (Linguistics, 2nd)
- Math & Brain Sciences: Fabio Ricci (Math, 1st)
- Engineering Group B: Vaishali Surianarayanan (CS, 1st); Sai Sukruth Bezugam (ECE, 2nd)
- Chemistry & Physics: Kseniia Karnaukh (Chem, 1st)
- Education & Counseling, Clinical, and School Psych): Chongzheng Wei (CCSP, 1st)

We look forward to the Final Round Showcase on April 14, which will determine the student who represents UCSB at the system-wide competition.

## Zoom Drop-In Advising

Drop-in on our student advising sessions to get your quick questions answered from home. This quarter, **all sessions** are hosted virtually, on Zoom. Follow [this link](#) to view the Spring schedule.

Of course, you're still welcome to bring your questions to OISS in-person if you prefer.

## OPT Application Deadline

Graduating and applying for Optional Practical Training (OPT)? Be sure to file on time so you don't miss the deadline!

There are two main steps to apply for OPT: 1) apply to OISS to get your OPT I-20 and 2) file your I-765 online with USCIS, where you upload your new OPT I-20. The second step must be completed within 60 days of your program end date. It can be completed as early as 90 days before your program end date though, so we recommend getting a head start on your application. For more information, including the OPT Tutorial, follow [this link](#).



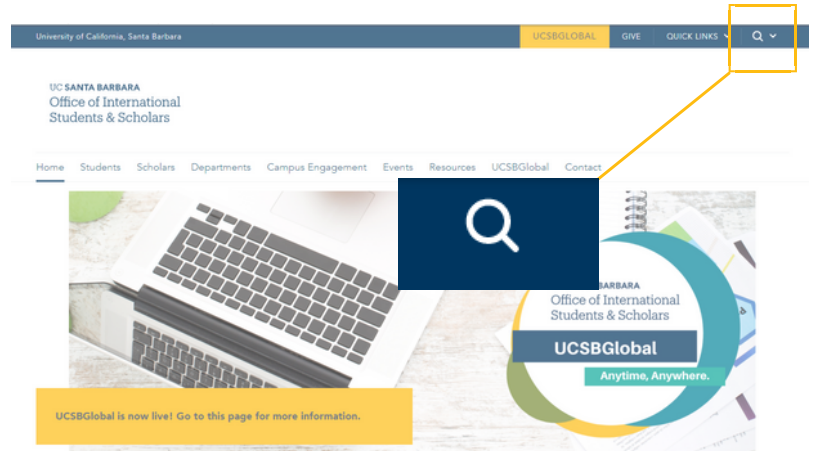
# OISS Staffing

We are experiencing staffing changes and appreciate your understanding as we go into our busiest season. Our [Student Request Guide](#) lists standard processing times for e-form requests submitted in UCSBGlobal. Depending on an advisor's workload or availability, processing times may vary.

## E-forms Only

Some of you may recall OISS previously used paper forms — hard to imagine, now! Although these paper forms have been removed from our website, you can still find them using a search engine, like Google.

Therefore, if you're looking for information about a certain request, you'll get the best results by using our [Student Request Guide](#) or the search function within our website. OISS only accepts e-forms submitted through UCSBGlobal.



## Electronic DS-2019s

The Department of State [announced](#) that beginning April 27, DS-2019s can be signed and sent electronically!

This is a new benefit for J-1 students and scholars who will no longer need to pick up paper versions of their DS-2019s. For things like travel signatures, OISS will soon be able to email the signed DS-2019 to students and scholars. All requests still need to be submitted through UCSBGlobal.



# OISS Events

## English Conversation Program

The English Conversation Program (ECP) provides an opportunity to develop English language skills while also allowing participants to connect with other members of UCSB's international community. In addition to weekly classes held each quarter, ECP also organizes various social events throughout the year and is open to the entire UCSB international community, including family members of students and scholars. If you have any questions about the program, please email [oissprograms@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:oissprograms@sa.ucsb.edu).

For class times, check the [OISS Shoreline Events page](#).



# OISS Recommends

*Let's take the bus to*  
**THE ZOO!**

DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 11:30AM  
MEETING LOCATION: NORTH HALL BUS STOP

**Hey, international graduate students!**

Did you know UCSB students ride the Santa Barbara MTD bus for free? Let's take the bus together to the Santa Barbara Zoo!

A limited number of free zoo tickets available on first come first served basis, courtesy of OISS and GSRC

Check this Shoreline link for more info and to RSVP:



Graduate Student Resource Center  
UC SANTA BARBARA  
Office of International Students & Scholars

## Career Services Calendar

Career Services has quite a few special events planned and some very valuable programs in place to help you with your career planning and development.

They are pleased to feature their digital [Spring 2023 digital calendar](#) with you and we hope you find the electronic format useful. Register for all events and workshops via [Handshake!](#)

# Message from Belinda Lu at Health & Wellness

Congratulations everyone on finishing another quarter. I hope everyone had a relaxing spring break and is ready to start a new quarter. It was so nice to finally meet some of you at the International Student Paint Night with CARE, and the International Women's Day Meditation and Tea Social event the past quarter. I am so grateful for having the opportunity to introduce Health & Wellness to you all. Seeing you all making new friends and enjoying the Turkish snacks made my heart feel so full and I hope to meet more of you in the spring quarter.

With that said, I am excited to share with you an event that I will be hosting the International Sports Day event on Friday, April 28th from 3-5 pm outside on the San Nicolas Lawn. Do you know a sport from your country, and want to share it with someone else, but couldn't find the place and time? Well, I got you! The International Sports Day event will not only give you the opportunity to teach others to play the sports from your country but you can also enjoy the fun in sports with other international students. The QR code linked to the interest form is on the right, please fill it out if you are interested. I can't wait to see you there!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. My email is [belindalu@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:belindalu@sa.ucsb.edu)



**Health & Wellness  
is Hiring!**

Apply to be an International  
Student Support Intern  
using the link below

<https://bit.ly/intl-well>



## Open House

Open House is an all-inclusive look at what UCSB has to offer to both new and current students! Attending Open House exposes students to a plethora of campus resources and student organizations. Registration is required to attend - head to the Open House website for the link to register.



# Peer Housing Assistance for International Students

The UCSB Housing Advocates are starting a new pilot program for international students who are currently out of the country and are looking for off-campus housing. We have heard concerns from students about scams and situations where students are unable to see if listings are real. It can also be difficult to navigate the process of renting an apartment in a town you aren't yet familiar with.

With this new program, students can make a zoom appointment with a housing advocate who can go talk to a property provider for you, answer questions you might have about a place, go look at the place for you and take pictures. If the time difference is an issue you can also send us an email at [sa-housingadvocate@ucsb.edu](mailto:sa-housingadvocate@ucsb.edu).

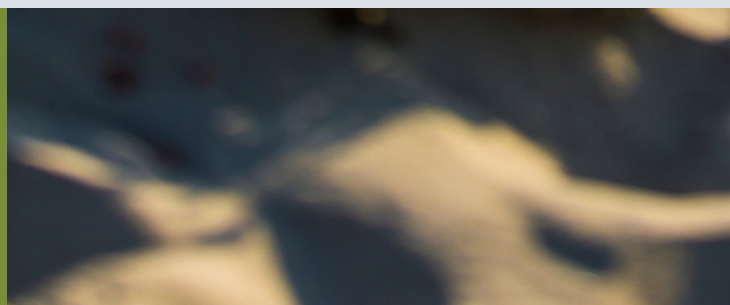
You can schedule a zoom meeting with housing advocates through this shoreline link:  
<https://shoreline.ucsb.edu//meetings/m7989/book>

If you don't see a time that works for you, please send us an email [sa-housingadvocate@ucsb.edu](mailto:sa-housingadvocate@ucsb.edu) and we will accommodate your schedule.



## Give Day

UCSB Give Day is April 13! Get ready to show love for campus by supporting the programs and people who make UC Santa Barbara a top public university.





# Thanks for Reading!

We hope you enjoyed this issue of the OISS Newsletter. Past newsletters can be viewed on the OISS [website](#).

## Questions?

If you are a current international student with questions regarding immigration, advising and other requests, email [oiss@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:oiss@sa.ucsb.edu).

J-1 Scholars should reach out to [j1scholar@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:j1scholar@sa.ucsb.edu). For those with questions related to employment-based visas; please contact [longtermvisa@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:longtermvisa@sa.ucsb.edu).

For any inquiries regarding upcoming OISS events, or collaboration opportunities, contact [oissprograms@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:oissprograms@sa.ucsb.edu).

If you are a UCSB department or organization and would like to publicize any information or upcoming events to international Gauchos, contact [mmotomazie@ucsb.edu](mailto:mmotomazie@ucsb.edu).

## Let's stay in touch!

Follow our social media accounts to stay up-to-date with everything happening at OISS.

